

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-12 and 15 are pending in the application. Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of now cancelled claims 16 and 17. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging the existence of allowable subject matter in Claim 17. In particular, the Examiner has found Claim 17 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-12, and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent Numbers 5,545,276 (Higgins) and 5,240,530 (Fink) in view of 5,278,272 and 5,272,236 (the Lai patents) for the reasons of record. While Applicants still do not concede or agree with these rejections, Applicants believe the current amendment to Claim 1 moots these rejections. As set forth above, the Examiner has found claim 17 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To that end, claim 1 has been amended herein to incorporate all the limitations of claim 17 and intervening claim 16. As such, it is believed that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully seek notification of same.

Applicants would also like to draw the Examiner's attention to the Terminal Disclaimer filed in related co-pending application serial number 11/193,277. Applicants note that a provisional obvious-type double patenting rejection has not been presented in the instant application or in the related co-pending application serial number 11/193,277. To that end, the Terminal Disclaimer submitted in related co-pending application serial number 11/193,277 is for the sole purpose of facilitating prosecution in the event that such an obvious-type double patenting rejection between the claims of the instant application and the claims of co-pending application serial number 11/193,277 is later presented.

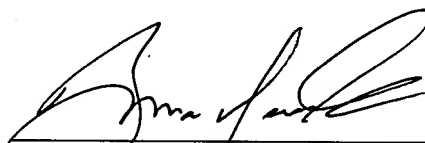
CONCLUSION

In light of the Amendments and Remarks submitted herein, it is believed that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully seek notification of same.

A Credit Card Payment Authorization Form PTO-2038 authorizing payment in the amount of \$120.00, for the concurrently filed Request for One Month Extension of Time is also enclosed. This amount is believed to be correct; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.

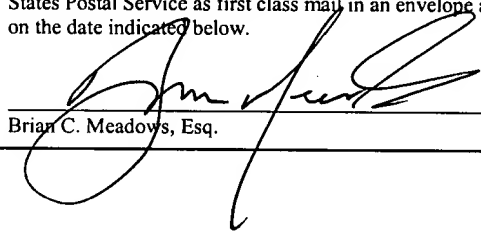


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence, including any items indicated as attached or included, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.



Brian C. Meadows, Esq.

September 4, 2007
Date